

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed dredging project in Norfolk, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 28, 2017 to August 25, 2017

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal activity to determine whether it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The CZM Program seeks to protect the quality of air, water and other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Norfolk District is considering a Joint Permit Application for an individual permit submitted by the Virginia Port Authority (VPA or applicant) for the proposed new work and maintenance dredging at the VPA Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) located at 7737 Hampton Boulevard Norfolk, Virginia. The proposed project will dredge approximately 4,300,000 cubic yards of new work volume and 250,000 cubic yards per year of maintenance dredging for the next ten years. The new work is necessary to deepen the berths at Pier 3 and at the North and South Container Terminals. The maximum dredging depths are minus 37 feet at Pier 3, in the berthing areas by Piers 1 and 2 and the Roll On/Roll Off berth and minus 57 feet at the North and South Container terminals. The depths are based on mean lower low water (MLLW). A total of 290-acres of subaqueous bottom will be dredged as part of the project. The area will be mechanically dredged and either transported in sealed barges to the Craney Island Rehandling Basin for disposal or hydraulically pumped directly to the upland cells at the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA). The dredging is necessary to provide for safe navigation of large vessels at the terminal. The applicant has submitted a Federal Consistency Certification which finds the proposed action consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Janine Howard
DEQ Central Office, 6th Floor
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia, 23219
Phone: (804) 698-4299
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: janine.howard@deq.virginia.gov